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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : ZMUDA, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/938,131  
Filed : August 23, 2001  
Title : ORAL FLUID RAPID ASSAY FOR  
HEPATITUS C VIRUS (HCV)  
ANTIBODIES USING NON-  
ANTIBODY LABELING OF IgA  
MOLECULES RECOGNIZING HCV  
PEPTIDE EPITOPES  
Group Art Unit : 1641  
Examiner : Unknown  
Attorney Docket : LIO 2 0081

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicants submit the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicants are aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

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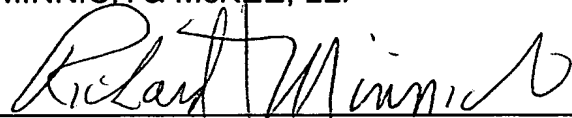
Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed patents require no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

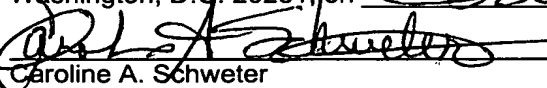
Respectfully submitted,  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this **Information Disclosure Statement** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on Oct. 31, 2002.

  
Caroline A. Schweter